

TOWN OF CHESTER  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 6, 2016  
Minutes

PRESENT: John DeBenedetti; Tom Bock; William Lindsay; Heather Chase; Arne Jonynas;  
David Pisha

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Shawn Cunningham; Edward Huse; Cil Mathews; Dan Cook; Frank  
Kelley; Tom Hildreth; Derek Suursoo

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman DeBenedetti.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

1. APPROVE MINUTES:

December 30, 2015:

A motion was made by William Lindsay to approve the December 30, 2015 minutes of the Chester Selectboard meeting as amended. Seconded by Tom Bock. The motion passed.

Page 2, Paragraph 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sentence, should say increased up to \$40,000.00

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Frank Kelley stated that he and Tom Hildreth are present representing a committee planning the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at CAES to discuss the planning of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He is requesting that the Selectboard members attend. Frank Kelley stated that they have had a good response so far. John DeBenedetti requested that Julie Hance warn the meeting for the Selectboard.

Arne Jonynas stated that the Chester Conservation Committee has met and has been working on the developing the Brookside Trail. He stated that the committee is looking for funding in the amount of approximately \$700 or \$800 to pay for the lumber. Julie Hance stated that she has the funds in her Grant Fund.

4. SIGN TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE:

John DeBenedetti stated that the town has received the Tax Anticipation Note for the Selectboard to sign. 'The TAN is for \$1,2 million at a rate of 1.4% and is due and payable October 20, 2016.

A motion was made by Heather Chase to sign the Current Expense Note Line of Credit in the amount of \$1.2 million at an interest rate of 1.4% due and payable October 20, 2016. Seconded by Tom Bock. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Tom Bock to sign the Resolution for the Current Expense Borrowing. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Tom Bock to sign the Non-Arbitrage Agreement for the Current Expense Borrowing. Seconded by William Lindsay. The motion passed.

5. SIGN RESOLUTION FOR MASTER PLAN GRANT APPLICATION:

A motion was made by Heather Chase to sign the Resolution for the Strong Communities Better Connections Grant. Seconded by William Lindsay. The motion passed.

Tom Bock recused himself from signing this Resolution since he is Chairman of the Planning Commission.

6. TAC UPDATE:

Arne Jonynas stated that the District Leveling Program updated was presented at the last TAC meeting. He stated that the repaving of Route 11 from Goldthwaite Road to the Windham Town Line is the only project on the list that will affect Chester. Arne Jonynas stated that the leveling program is for small projects only.

Arne Jonynas stated that the Better Backroads Grants have been expanded. He stated that the grant allowance has been increased to \$20,000.00 and sometimes \$50,000.00 depending on the type of project.

Arne Jonynas stated that engineers from the State of Vermont were present to talk to the committee about a major paving project that will be taking place on Route 131. He stated that this will be a two year project and is slated to begin this year. Arne Jonynas stated that the State of Vermont is more communicative with towns on larger projects then in past years.

Arne Jonynas stated that there is an article on the Warning for Vermont transit. He stated that Rebecca Gagnon from Vermont Transit requested that towns allow these articles to be placed on the Town Warnings without having to get petitions. The Selectboard discussed this process for next year.

7. 2016 DRAFT GENERAL FUND BUDGET:

David Pisha stated that the General fund shows a surplus of \$13,472.23. He stated that Dan Cook has reviewed the addition of the new Ambulance position and has found additional savings within that department. In addition, there were some small revenues added at the last minute. David Pisha stated that the summary page shows a tax increase in the amount of \$12,252.15.

Dan Cook stated that the ambulance has good response time during the evenings and on weekends. It is during business hours on the weekdays where there becomes an issue. Dan Cook stated that the work hours for the new employee will be from 8:00 to 4:00 with a call time required from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. He explained that this employee would be hired at a rate of approximately \$15.00 per hour. Dan Cook explained that this employee would be given other responsibilities that would be performed during their non-response time. These will include training officer and potential billing. This will also provide an additional savings.

Discussion ensued regarding response times and how the position would work. Dan Cook explained the potential loss of revenue if the town contracts with Golden Cross permanently and the billing of transports. The Selectboard discussed the possibility of raising the rates for ambulance transport. It was agreed to review the billing and determine if the rates can be raised.

Derek Suursoo questioned the plan on gravel extraction from the O'Neil land and if money has been set aside to pursue this project. David Pisha stated that the land purchase is expected to go through next year and the water project is top priority first. Discussion ensued and the Selectboard agreed that money should be put aside. David Pisha stated that money can be found within the budget to pay for an analysis. Derek Suursoo noted that he would like this project pursued aggressively.

Derek Suursoo stated that a heavy duty safety issue, the fire hoses, that has been identified in a public meeting should be addressed within the budget. He expressed concerns regarding what happens if the bond fails.

David Pisha stated that Naomi Johnson clarified that if there is money available after the bidding comes in and there is space to include \$35,100.00 for hydrants, the State would be willing to allow this expense within the water project.

Derek Suursoo requested explanation of the Bond Series 1 that is shown on the Capital Plan. David Pisha explained the Bond and its repayment through the Capital Plan. The suggestion was made to show the items purchased on one sheet so that it is an easier read. Discussion ensued regarding changing to an accrual system. It was agreed to discuss with Ron Smith the steps necessary to make this change. In addition, David Pisha will draft a presentation of the Capital Plan and Bond Plan for the Annual Report for the next meeting.

A motion was made by Tom Bock to approve a budget in the amount of \$2,847,925.67. Seconded by Arne Jonynas. The motion passed.

John DeBenedetti questioned the status of the increase to Andover. David Pisha stated that he has spoken with Andover regarding the increase and offered for both himself and Matt Wilson to attend if needed.

John DeBenedetti questioned the dispatch billing. Cil Mathews and Matt Wilson explained the billing. It was agreed that the \$21,000.00 will cover any dispatching needs.

8. 2016 WATER & SEWER BUDGETS:

David Pisha stated that the Water Department ended on a positive note in 2015. He stated that he does not see a need to raise revenue tremendously, but will be raised incrementally to cover the upcoming bonding payments. John DeBenedetti noted that the CDF loan in water will be disappearing this year.

David Pisha stated that the Sewer Department ended on a positive note in 2015. He stated that the rates will need to be reviewed for the next billing. John DeBenedetti noted that the Sewer Department is paying back its loan to the General Fund. David Pisha stated that this does not show up on the Profit and Loss Statement but he put it in the budget to show accurate payments.

Julie Hance will review the procedures for the setting of the Water and Sewer Budgets and who approves the budgets.

9. REVIEW TOWN WARNING:

The Selectboard reviewed the draft Town Warning.

It was agreed to reword Article 5 to include the budget figure and to whom and when paid.

It was agreed to remove the wording "By Selectboard Request" from Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10.

10. NEW BUSINESS/NEXT AGENDA:

The Town Warning will be on the next agenda. The bonding paperwork will be on the next agenda. William Lindsay requested that the solar contract be placed on the next agenda. David Pisha will provide an opinion from Ron Smith regarding changing to an accrual system of accounting.

11. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by William Lindsay to adjourn. Seconded by Heather Chase. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Julie Hance  
Secretary of the Select Board

Heather Chase  
Clerk of the Select Board

The SAPA-TV recording of this meeting is hereby made a part of the permanent minute record of this meeting.